

Nutshell Series

Information Ready for Use

BRAZIL



Board of Missions M. E. Church,
South

Foreign Department of Wemao's Work

1912



Brazil

"The great republic of Brazil, with its twenty States and more than eighteen millions of inhabitants, is a heathen land, as the majority of its people are ignorant, superstitious, and in many sections grossly immoral. As in all papal lands, it has no open Bible, but has substituted the Virgin Mary for Christ, and worships at her shrine. Protestant Christianity did not enter Brazil until 1860; the Methodist Episcopal Church did not open work there until 1874. The difficulties to be met and overcome in Brazil, the indifference of the home Church, as well as the meagerness of its resources, made the rapid advance of the gospel impossible.

The General Board has in Brazil nineteen missionaries, forty-two native preachers, six thousand six hundred and eighty-four members, ninety-three Sunday schools with four thousand one hundred and twenty members, and five self-supporting Churches. Last year the natives con-

tributed \$24,053.04 for Church purposes. Value of mission property, \$461,986.

The Woman's Board entered Brazil in 1881, sending out Miss Mattie H. Watts, of Louisville, Ky., who opened work in Piracicaba. Note the result of her work: "Twenty-seven years ago a lone woman in a rented room struggling for three months with a single pupil; to-day in the same city on the ground formerly devoted to bull-fighting is a college that makes the enemies of truth tremble. It is considered to be the source of all that is best in the public schools. It is acknowledged by health officers to be one of the most hygienic buildings in the State. Collegio Piracicabano is feared and hated by its enemies and loved by those who love mankind. This college and seven more like it have grown from the sowing twenty-seven years ago, and the sower is seeing the harvest. Many who sent out the lone missionary have gone to their reward; but God has answered their prayers and rewarded their self-sacrifice in a measure greater perhaps than their faith and with results greater and more far-reaching than their successors comprehended."

There are now eight flourishing stations under our Board in Brazil, with twenty-four missionaries doing splendid work.

The possibilities of the work are great indeed.

If even the most urgent needs of the stations could be supplied, hundreds and thousands could be brought into the fold of Christ. One evidence of the success of the work is the bitter opposition it has aroused on the part of priest and Catholics and the determined effort to crush it. As soon as we open a school in a city, immediately the people, who have heretofore been perfectly indifferent to education, establish schools and colleges and put forth every effort to make our schools seem unnecessary. The persecution in some instances has been so intense as to recoil on the priest and do him and his work more harm than was done to Protestantism. Still in some of our schools the number is limited only by the want of space, many applicants being turned off day after day.

Hear the report from Rio: "During the year not less than *thirty* children have been lost because we could not take them as boarders and have gone into Catholic schools, away from the truth and light. Can you wonder that we plead for a home in Rio, where these little ones can continue with us until they have learned the way of life? Would that I could let you look through my eyes and see the great, rich harvest field, the little children dying for lack of spiritual food, and the number of families merely existing (for there

is no life without Christ) who could be fed by the school if we could only accommodate them! May God himself impress the great need of the city of Rio de Janeiro upon the hearts of all, that many may speak and pray as well as give to it until he shall crown all efforts with grand success! Rio is to Brazil what New York and Washington together are to the United States. What if the Christian Church had no schools in either of these great centers? Here it is worse. No Christian school in all the city to meet this demand, while in almost every three or four squares one sees schools where Christ is ignored and truth unknown. Can I say more, or do you still feel that it is enough to rent an old, inconvenient building, furnish it with desks, and let those come who will?"

Does not this appeal touch the heart of some women in this land who will open their purses for Brazil and the cause of Christianity in that land? From all parts of our work come appeals for help. Overburdened missionaries are attempting the impossible. Will you go to their aid?

"Darkness has for a long time rested upon the whole country; but the divine word is going forth, saying with infinite power: 'Let there be light!' Happy the man, happy the people that gladly aid in its blessed and universal diffusion!"

SCHOOLS AND MISSIONARIES IN BRAZIL.

Miss Layona Glenn,
Superintendent of Mission.

SCHOOLS	Pupils	MISSIONARIES
RIO DE JANEIRO.		
Collegio Americano Fluminense.	70	Miss Hellen Hickman, Miss Lydia Ferguson.
Central Mission Day School.....	253	Miss Trulie Richmond, Miss Margaret Simpson.
Day School (night classes).....	215	Miss Gabriella de Salles (native teacher).
Petropolis.....	79	Miss Eliza Perkinson, Miss Mary Pescud, Miss Florence Barton.
PIRACICABA.		
Collegio Piracicabano (Martha Watts Annex).....	148	Miss L. A. Stradley, Mrs. Fannie K. Brown, Miss Jennie Stradley, Miss Sarah Warne, Miss Estelle Hood, Miss Virginia Howell, Miss Sophie Schalch.
JUIZ DE FORA.		
Collegio Mineiro... ..	160	Miss Ida Shaffer, Miss Daisy Pyles, Miss Leila Flossie Epps.
BELLO HORIZONTE.		
Isabella Hendrix.....	150	Miss Blanch Howell, Miss Mamie Fenley, Miss Miriam Steel.
SAO PAULO.		
Evangelistic Work.....	Miss Amelia Elerding.
RIBEIRAO PRETO.		
Collegio Methodista....	151	Miss Eunice F. Andrew, Miss Helen Johnston, Miss Murphy (teacher).
Total (8).....	1,226	23.